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Garrison Training

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3. The following daily training schedule applied to all phases of summer and winter training, except border guard duty:

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0600 - 0610 Reveille
0610 - 0630
               Physical training
0630 - 0645
0645 - 0700
0700 - 0800
                Morning toilet
               Inspection
               Breakfast: in two half-hour shifts
Political lectures twice a week: train-
0800 - 1000
                ing for the balance of the week
1000 - 1600
               Marching, close order drill, field
                exercises, lectures on engineering,
               nomenclature of weapons, aiming and
               assembly of weapons, various tactical
                training
1600 - 1630
1630 - 1700
1700 - 1830
1830 - 2030
               Clean Wespons
               Supper
               Rest
               Political discussions
2030 - 2200
               Free time
2200 - 2230
               Evening inspection, roll call
2230 - 2245
               Close order march
2245 - 2300
               Preparation for bed
2300
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the following 48-hour schedule was maintained:

1800 - 1800 Guard duty: four hours on and eight hours off; the men ate and slept during off-duty hours

1800 - 0600 Rest

0600 - 0610 Reveille

0610 - 0630 Physical training

0630 - 0645 Morning toilet

0645 - 0700 Inspection by squad leader 0700 - 0730 Breakfast

0730 - 0800 Platoon leader read the daily

news to EM

0800 - 1200 Training: usually political lectures or nomenclature and assembly of weapons

1200 - 1400 Clean weapons and uniforms, free time

1400 - 1430 Dinner 1430 - 1800 Rest

Enlisted men were excused from guard duty if the morning inspection determined that some part of his uniform was not in order. For example, an enlisted man had only one pair of boots and if these needed repairs and no others were available, he was excused from duty until the boots were repaired.

- 4. Training was conducted by squad NCOs under the supervision of platoon leaders; sometimes the company commander supervised the training.
- 5. Training inspections were conducted twice a year to determine training efficiency: at the end of winter training and again at the end of summer training. The inspection teams,

 also checked on political indoctrination of the unit.
- 6. The main deficiency found by the inspection teams was the lack of energy and ambition. After each inspection, the company commander and platoon leaders would reprime the enlisted men for being lazy and without spirit.

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Political training to prepare troops for combat was given in the form of political lectures which emphasized that the American and British "imperialists" were preparing for a new war and the Soviet Army had to be on the alert and ready to protect the fatherland (Rodina). These lectures were given to the summer and winter training groups and to troops on border guard duty.

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9. The term for the NCO School of the 112th Gds Rifle Regt lasted nine months: from February 1949 to October 1949. It 50X1 was attended by 120 students who were selected for their physical appearance, education, and general deportment. Both the 117th Gds Rifle Regt and the 112th Gds Rifle Regt had an NCO school

Enlisted men were not anxious to attend the school inasmuch as an NCO must serve at least one year longer than a private and had no additional liberties. The only advantage was a small increase in pay. Since there were not enough volunteers, men were ordered to attend the schools. The school was organized into a company which was broken down into two rifle platoons of 45 men each, and one mortar platoon of five gun crews or a total of 15 men. Lt Col Michailov was appointed Commanding Officer of the NCO School, 112th Gds Rifle Regt in February 1949. Prior to this assignment with the school, he was Commanding Officer of the 3d Bn, 112th Gds Rifle Regt; his replacement was Maj Koturov, newly assigned from the USSR.

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10. New inductees were integrated into squads and trained along with the other men.

Summer Training

11. On or about 14 April 1950, the 112th Gds Rifle Regt started the move from its winter quarters in Plauen to its summer quarters in Ohrdruf. The 6th Co of the 112th Gds Rifle Regt, composed of about five officers and 80 enlisted men, was left behind to guard the barracks and ammunition depot of the 112th Regt. The NCO School also made the move with the 112th Regt.

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- 12. The 6th Co, which remained in Plauen all summer, kept all of its weapons and ammunition. Other ammunition was also left behind five or six trucks were also left behind at the winter quarters.
- 13. All guns, vehicles, weapons, and equipment belonging to units subordinated to the 112th Gds Rifle Regt were taken to Ohrdruf, with the exception of those assigned to the 6th Co.

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50X1 14. The move to summer quarters was effected by rail and required three days. Twenty-five railroad cars, including 50X1 flatcars, were utilized each day. battalion and some portion of the supporting units of the 112th Gds Rifle Regt moved each day. The men rode and slept on the floors of baggage cars, each of which accommodated 40 of them. Their equipment, consisting of overcoat, knapsack, mess kit, gas mask, shovel, and weapons, but no ammunition, was carried with them. The trucks, packed with 50X1 equipment, were loaded on flatcars at the railroad station in Plauen. The first sergeant and the supply NCO handled all the ammunition which was kept in the quarters of the first sergeant. the EM mess was a former German Army mess where the men of the 112th Regt ate in two shifts. EM took showers every ten days. 15. Free motion pictures on Saturday and Sunday evenings from 2200 to 2330 hours and supervised athletics on Sunday afternoons provided recreation for the EM. Some of the men provided entertainment by playing musical instruments. playing and any form of gambling were strictly prohibited. The EM had no clubs or dances, but the officers held weekly dances at their club and invited female Soviet civilians employed in nearby towns to attend. 50X1 16. The 112th Gds Rifle Regt conducted its firing exercises, field problems, etc. at the former German range located 50X1 four kms from the summer quarters. The range was about 70 kms square. 50X1 Three various type silhouette targets were set up at the same time for each man firing; three men fired simultaneously. The terrain was level, free of underbrush and trees, but grassy. Ammunition was supplied 50X1 to the squad leaders by the first sergeant. While the 112th Regt was stationed at Ohrdruf, food and clothing were 50X1 stored in the basement of the barracks in which the soldiers lived. 50X1 17. Enlisted men of the 112th Gds Rifle Regt were restricted at all times to their unit area. Kommandatura patrols kept a sharp look-out for EM in the villages and the towns in the vicinity of the summer camp. Officers were free to go into town.

18. Training started on 2 May 1950, about three weeks after the arrival in summer quarters. The period from 15 April to 2 May was spent in cleaning the barracks, fixing up lawns, digging latrines, etc. The training schedule at the summer quarters was identical to that given while in winter quarters in Plauen. The only free time was daily from 2030 to 2200 hours each day, Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

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-6-19. The morale among the EM was very low but they voiced their 50X1 complaints only among themselves; had they complained to their officers, they would have been given extra work details or a few days in the guardhouse. They were dissatisfied with the army because of the poor pay, bad food, no leave, lack of personal freedom, the continuous drive of training, and the ban on drinking and fraternization. EM had been permitted to buy beer until the spring of 1951, at which time it was prohibited. Other alcoholic drinks were always prohibited to EM. 21. The discipline among the EM in my unit was good. Very few incidents of disobedience occurred. Once a Pvt Kuka of the 8th Co, 3d Bn, 112th Gds Rifle Regt refused to run during attack exercises because his feet hurt. His squad NCO reported him to the platoon commander who gave him a special duty assignment for three nights in addition to his ordinary duties and training. While they were in the summer area, many EM remained away from the camp at night but returned in time for reveille. If caught, the punishment was five to ten days in the guardhouse for the second 50X1 offense; if caught a third time, they were court-martialled and sentenced to a labor camp in the USSR. 22 . 23. 24。 50X1 Some Soviet officers had their dependents living with them in Germany. Some EM who had volunteered to serve beyond 50X1 their regular tour of duty (Sverkhsrochniki) had their dependents with them in the Soviet Zone. 50X1 officers enjoy more freedom than EM; the latter must always stay in their unit area and with their unit members. must even notify their friends when they go to the latrine. 50X1 EM receive leave only in case of the death of either parent, while officers receive 45 days annual leave plus travel time. 50X1 50X1 was no guardhouse on the border. Discipline on the border was not as strict as in garrison or the summer camp; almost all the EM drank. If an EM assigned on the border became drunk, and this happened frequently, it was ignored; otherwise there was not a sufficient number of men to go on duty. If an EM was found guilty of drunkenness .50X1 three or four times in a row, the guard committee would ask the company for a replacement. During the twelve months about 18 men were found guilty of periodic drunkenness and were transferred

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50X1 to the company. about 30 officers of the 117th Gds Rifle Regt 50X1 contacted VD each year. 50X1 only two men who were returned to the USSR before the expiration of their normal tours of duty. A lieutenant assigned to the 2d Bn, 4th Co, 112th Gds Rifle Regt took two enlisted men from the same unit for a ride on his motorcycle. The lieutenant was drunk at the time and 50X1 crashed his motorcycle into a tree, killing one of the 50X1 enlisted men. The lieutenant and surviving EMwere court-martialled and returned to the USSR to serve their hard-labor sentences of seven and four years, 50X1 respectively.

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